



FACT SHEET



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U.S. SCRAP UPDATE # 2

122nd and Cottage Grove Ave.
November 26, 1985

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



247092

Current Status

EPA has completed digging into the railroad bank and has uncovered between 60 to 65 drums which contained paint wastes and sludges. Because some of these drums had deteriorated, quite a bit of the wastes spilled onto the soil. EPA will remove the contaminated soil from the bank and replace it with clean fill dirt.

As in the last update, no shock-sensitive materials were found, and EPA did not detonate any materials.

Because the bank has been excavated and no shock-sensitive materials were found, EPA will complete the cleanup as soon as the drums and contaminated soils are taken off the site and we can get heavy equipment on the site to place the clean dirt into the excavated areas.

Currently, Briand Wu of the EPA has placed the drums into "over-packs" (large, clean 80-gallon drums that surround the smaller 55-gallon drums), and they are sitting onsite. They will be taken to a federally permitted facility that is approved to receive hazardous wastes from a Superfund site.

The contaminated soil will be placed into a large, above-ground leakproof tank and also taken offsite for disposal. Because of the recent wet weather, Briand has been unable to move any large equipment onto the site to either place the large tank there or to place the clean fill dirt into the excavated areas.

This cleanup, which included fencing the site, placing the clay cap over the site, placing the temperature probes into the earth, searching the area for shock-sensitive materials, removing nearly 55 drums, and removing contaminated soils was paid for by the Superfund and took over 3 months to complete.

Air and Soil Testing

As part of this cleanup, EPA set up an extensive air monitoring network and conducted numerous soil tests to determine if any contaminants were leaving the site and to determine what types of contaminants were in the soil.

The air monitoring network, which was both onsite and also ringed the site on all sides did not detect any airborne contaminants leaving the site during the project.

The soil samples showed that the worst areas were those on the railroad bank where drums had split open. These soils, which were heavily saturated with paint sludges and wastes, will be removed.

Finally, tests of the temperature probes have been conducted on a regular basis and they show that the subsurface temperature has returned to normal since EPA began the testing in August. With the winter weather, there is no further threat of the temperature increasing or of any further underground activity.

Future Events

EPA has reviewed the site for any other potential cleanups and has determined that other portion of the site presents a direct public health or environmental hazard. Therefore, once this cleanup is over, the site will not be on the site any longer.

However, with the information gathered during this investigation and cleanup (soil temperatures, air and soil testing results), EPA will determine if a longer, more extensive investigation is needed. As a first step, EPA and their contractors may occasionally be on-site taking tests to find out more about other parts of the site not addressed by this cleanup. Major factors in the decision are if contaminants are leaving the site either through the air, surface groundwater and the presence of a direct environmental or public health threat.

EPA will take the information and incorporate it into a program called the Hazard Ranking System. The site will be given a score based on its relative impact upon public health or the environment. If this score is judged high enough, the State of Illinois can request that it be added to the National Priorities List. Currently, sites that score either 28.5 or above are eligible for the list. If listed, the site can be eligible for Federal funds under Superfund for a longer term investigation.

Questions

Should you have any questions on this update, or on any other portion of this project, please call John Perrecone at 886-6685.

EPA has established two information centers at local libraries that provide specific information on the Hazard Ranking System. These centers are:

Chicago State University
Douglas Library
95th and King Drive

Chicago Public Library
Pullman Branch
11001 So. Indiana Ave.

If you want to be added to the mailing list, please contact John Perrecone at the above number, or write to John Perrecone, U.S. EPA, Region 5, 230 South Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60604.